

Maert ns et al  
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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-62 (Canceled).

63. (Currently Amended) A polynucleic acid which is chosen from the group consisting of:

- (i) the nucleotide sequence ~~having~~ comprising SEQ ID NO:51,
- (ii) a part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to HCV type 10, or, to the subtype 10a, and
- (iii) the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

64. (Previously Amended) A polynucleic acid which is selected from:

- (i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising in its amino acid sequence at least one of the following amino acid residues; L186, G217, C252, A254, G290, W293, H295, with said notation being composed of a letter representing the amino acid residue by its one-letter code, and a number representing the amino acid numbering as shown in Table 1,
- (ii) a part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to HCV type 10, or, to the subtype 10a,
- (iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

65. (Previously Amended) A polynucleic acid which is selected from:

- (i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 52, 138, 155, 174, 190

and 207,

(ii) a part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to HCV type 10, or, to the subtype 10a,

(iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

66. (Previously Added) A recombinant polypeptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to any of claims 63 to 65.

67. (Previously Added) A method for production of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising:

-transformation of an appropriate cellular host with a recombinant vector, in which a polynucleic acid according to any of claims 63 to 65 has been inserted under the control of the appropriate regulatory elements, the polynucleic acid thus being an insert,

-culturing said transformed cellular host under conditions enabling the expression of said insert, and

-harvesting said polypeptide.

68. (Previously Added) A recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleic acid according to any of claims 63 to 65 operably linked to prokaryotic, eukaryotic or viral transcription and translation control elements.

✓ 69. (Previously Added) A host cell transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 68.

Q2 70. (Previously Added) A peptide corresponding to an amino acid sequence encoded by one of the polynucleic acids according to any of claims 63 to 65, with said peptide comprising an epitope which is unique to HCV type 10, or, to the subtype 10a.

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